

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pre-paid airline ticketing system comprising:

a processor ~~supporting a pre-paid airline ticketing system;~~ and

a storage device in communication with said processor and configured to store a record representing a pre-paid, fixed-price option purchased by a customer ~~to be exercised by the customer to book a flight from among a plurality of flights offered by one of multiple participating air travel carriers,~~ the record including:

(i) a plurality of geographic flight parameters and a plurality of non-geographic flight parameters, at least one of the geographic flight parameters being unspecified and at least one of the non-geographic flight parameters being participating airlines available for selection by the customer for booking a flight; and

(ii) an identifier associated with and uniquely identifying the record for the customer to use to exercise the pre-paid, fixed price option ~~to book one of the flights;~~ and said processor configured to:

verify an identifier submitted by a customer to exercise the pre-paid, fixed-price option;

retrieve the record including the identifier submitted by the customer;

generate signals used to present actual flights offered by the participating airlines available for selection by the customer based on the geographic and non-geographic flight parameters stored in the record; and

book a flight selected by the customer from among the presented actual flights by using the pre-paid, fixed-price option.

2. (Previously Presented) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 wherein the identifier comprises an alpha-numeric sequence.

3. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of non-geographic flight parameters ~~comprise~~ include at least two of the following: a date, a time, a flight number, and a seat number.

4. (Previously Presented) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of non-geographic flight parameters further comprise one or more unspecified non-geographic flight parameters.

5. (Previously Presented) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 4 wherein the one or more unspecified non-geographic flight parameters comprise a range of possible values from which the one or more unspecified non-geographic flight parameters may be selected.

6. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of geographic flight parameters comprise a departure location and a destination location.

7. (Previously Presented) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 further comprising a dependence between two or more of the plurality of geographic flight parameters.

8. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline of claim 7 wherein the dependence comprises a maximum distance between the destination location and the departure location.

9. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 7 wherein the dependence comprises a geographical region from which the departure location and the destination location must be selected.

10. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 7 wherein the dependence comprises a geographical region from which the departure location must be selected for a specified destination location.

11. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 7 wherein the dependence comprises a geographical region from which the destination location must be selected for a specified departure location.

12. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 further ~~comprising a wallet-sized card, the wallet-sized card including a magnetic strip, the magnetic strip comprising an encoded representation of the unique identifier~~ configured to store data on a machine-readable, tangible medium.

13. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 12 further ~~comprising a wallet-sized card, the wallet-sized card including a bar code, the bar code comprising~~ wherein the machine-readable, tangible medium stores an encoded representation of the ~~unique~~ identifier.

14. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 further ~~comprising~~ wherein said processor is further configured to generate a printed receipt, the printed receipt including a first part for presentation to an airline and a second part for a customer's records, the printed receipt including, in printed form, the ~~unique~~ identifier, the plurality of non-geographic flight parameters, and the plurality of geographic flight parameters.

15. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 further ~~comprising~~ wherein said processor is further configured to issue an electronic receipt, ~~the electronic receipt including, in electronic form,~~ the ~~unique~~ identifier.

Applicant : Rahul R. Vaid
Serial No. : 09/409,242
Filed : September 30, 1999
Page : 5 of 9

Attorney's Docket No.: 14892-006001

16. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 15 further comprising wherein the electronic receipt is an email receipt, ~~the email receipt including, in electronic form, the unique identifier.~~

17-33. (Withdrawn)

34-75. (Canceled)